dropped down by about 25%. It appears that no scientific survey on the extent of spurious/ counterfeit medicines was carried out by ASSOCHAM.

Hellish condition of Government hospitals in the Capital

3453. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of most of the Government hospitals in the Capital are hellish;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a top hospital in the Capital is short of supplies that helpless patients have to purchase even basic things like cotton wool from outside as per recent newspaper reports; and

(c) whether Government has made any survey about the appalling conditions of Government hospitals in the Capital and if so, what are the findings thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In so far as three Central Government Hospitals, namely, Dr. R.M L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated hospitals as well as All India Institute of Medical Sciences, are concerned, all efforts are made to provide best possible treatment to all the patients coming to the hospital's emergency department as well as in OPD and ICUs. All the essential medicines according to the hospital formulary besides surgical items are available in these hospitals.

Ban on consumption of ordinary salt

†3454. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has put a ban on consumption and use of ordinary salt by human beings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had constituted a Committee to take into consideration the objections raised by various institutions before putting the ban;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee had seriously examined all objections and given its recommendations accordingly; and

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee with regard to banning the use of ordinary salt and compulsory use of iodized salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Under the PFA Rules 1955 there is restriction on the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption, unless it is iodized. However, Non- iodized common salt may be sold for purpose of iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicines and industrial use under proper label declaration.

(b) to (d) A Group of Expert considered the comments received and recommended that each rule and clause of notification be finalized as draft notified.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi